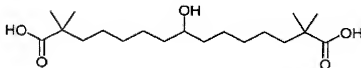


Remarks

Claims 1 – 10, and 28 – 61, as amended, and new claims 62 – 65 are pending in the application. Claims 11 – 27 are canceled without prejudice. Claims 28 – 34 stand withdrawn as covering non-elected inventions. The amendment to claim 35 simply makes explicit what was already implicit in the claims, namely that the salts, hydrates, solvates, indeed any physical form of the compound is encompassed by the claims. New claims 62 – 65 were crafted by separating out the four structures presented in claim 35. Further, the amendments to claims 36 – 61 were made at the Examiner's request in order to ensure the pharmaceutical composition claims and the method of treatment claims would be rejoined to the claims during prosecution. Therefore, no new matter is presented. Applicants reserve the right to file any canceled or withdrawn subject matter in one or more divisional applications.

In response to the Restriction Requirement under 35 U.S.C. §121 issued on October 12, 2006 in connection with above-captioned application, applicants hereby elect to prosecute the claims of Group I (claims 1-27 and 35) without traverse. The Examiner did not require a further election of species. However, if the Examiner meant to make such a requirement, but inadvertently left it out of the office action, applicants hereby elect the following species:



8-Hydroxy-2,2,14,14-tetramethyl-pentadecanedioic acid;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, hydrate, or solvate thereof. Said compound is specifically claimed as the second entry in claim 35 and is claimed individually in new claim 63. In addition, this compound is covered within the scope of claim 1 and formula I as follows:

m, at each occurrence, is 0;

n, at each occurrence, is 5;

X is (CH₂)_z wherein z is 1;

R¹, R², R¹¹, and R¹² are all methyl; and

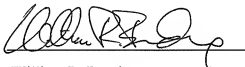
Y¹ and Y² are all COOH.

Similarly, the compound falls within the scope of Claims 2, 3, 6, and 8 which are dependent upon claim 1. Further, the compound falls within the scope of composition claims 36, 37, and 61 (as a compound of claim 1) as well as method of treatment claims 38 – 60 (as a compound of claim 1).

On the basis of the above remarks, reconsideration of this application and its early allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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